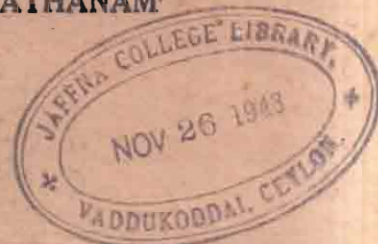


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NO. 64.

THE PRESENT SYSTEM OF EDUCATION.

Special Committee's Analysis Of The Defects.

The following is the continuation of the observations of the Special Committee on Education on the "Present Defects". The earlier portion appeared in the Hindu Organ of the 15th inst.

The Committee write:—

"There is no evidence that ability depends on the size of the father's income and the loss to the country caused by the series of economic barriers presented by its educational structure must be considerable. In other countries there are means by which the ablest of the poorest classes can go as high as those of equal ability in other classes. In Ceylon there are few such opportunities. The fault must not be attributed wholly to Government, nor wholly to the fact that nearly all secondary education is in the hands of denominational bodies; in most countries there are large endowments provided by "pious and immortal" benefactors for the education of "poor scholars". In Ceylon the local authorities, namely, the Municipal Councils, Urban Councils, and Village Committees do not bear any share of the financial responsibility for education and the Central Government has all along found from its revenue the entire public expenditure on education. Although the Education Ordinance of 1939 provides for the devolution of this responsibility on local bodies there is no prospect of these provisions being given effect to in the near future. The country has not been fortunate too in the matter of private endowments or benefactions for the educational cause. There are just a handful of such endowments and let us hope that for the future public-spirited citizens of affluence will come forward to demonstrate in a concrete manner their enthusiasm for the cause. It must, however, be admitted that the Assisted schools have been doing something in this direction by awarding scholarships and free places to enable poor and deserving children to prosecute their studies at such schools.

Another Defect

"A fourth major defect is that compulsory education is in substantial measure not compulsory. This is due to a variety of causes, such as, an insufficiency of schools to take in all the school going children in certain areas, the poverty and apathy of parents and certain difficulties in enforcing the law relating to compulsory attendance. Ever since the introduction of the new Constitution a sustained effort has been made by Government to put up more schools in areas insufficiently served but the pace has not been rapid to cover the entire gap in the school system. We may also refer here to the indifference shown by local authorities to this question. We are informed that in the city of Colombo itself there are many children not attending school because there

are no free schools for them. We understand that some time ago the Executive Committee of Education proposed to the Municipal Council that, if the Council would set apart suitable land for the purpose, Government would put up the necessary schools. Had the Council acceded to this proposal, the blot of thousands of children in the city of Colombo going without schooling would have been removed. We cannot omit to emphasize that our educational system cannot be satisfactory until schools are provided for all the children of the Island without exception. We deal in a later chapter with the laxity of the compulsory attendance law and the apathy of parents in the matter of their children's education and suggest ways and means of combating them. We may, however, note in passing that the provision of free midday meals in the free schools in certain areas of the Island has contributed a great deal to the improvement of attendance at schools. We do not agree that the poverty of parents should be accepted as an excuse for exempting children from school attendance. In Great Britain no exemptions are permitted up to the age of 14 and recent legislation has raised the age (subject to exception under stringent conditions) to 15. Proposals are now being made to increase the compulsory minimum to 16. If the State decides that every child should be educated up to the age of 14 at least, the State should see that the rule is enforced. The lack of a proper school survey and funds for the provision of new schools are defects which will be discussed in detail in the Chapter on "Educational Administration".

Other Defects

"There are other defects, of less importance, to which we draw attention in subsequent chapters and for which we suggest remedies. Some of the more important of these are the following:—

- (1) The inadequacy, in many cases, of school grounds, buildings and equipment especially for practical work;
- (2) The domination of curricula by examinations;
- (3) The narrowness of curricula, especially in the secondary schools;
- (4) The unsuitable nature of external examinations;
- (5) The shortage (and often the poor quality) of books in Sinhalese and Tamil;
- (6) The lack of sufficient provision for the blind, deaf, dumb, epileptic, crippled, mentally deficient, and backward children;
- (7) The inadequate provision for adult education; and
- (8) The abnormal percentage of withdrawals of pupils at the end of the primary stage.

(Continued on page 4)

LIQUOR TABOO PLEDGE.

Ten Candidates Sign.

NEXT SATURDAY'S U. C. ELECTIONS.

The election of representatives in the Jaffna Urban Council for eight wards will take place on Saturday next, the 27th inst.

Representatives for the four other wards were declared elected on the Nomination day, Monday, November 8, last.

Those so elected were Messrs. C. Ponnampalam, ward 5, K. V. S. Nadaraja, ward 6, V. S. S. Coomaraswamy, ward 7 and S. Patanjali, ward 8.

The Contestants

The following are the contestants for the respective wards:—

Ward No. 1: 1. Mr. J. D. Veerasingham (Green); 2. Mr. S. P. Nadaraja (Red); 3. Mr. Ariya Pathirana (Yellow). Ward No. II: 1. Mr. J. Patrick (Green); 2. Mr. Vital A. Moses (Yellow). Ward No. III: 1. Mr. V. A. Thuraiappah (Red); 2. Mr. J. Sebastiampillai (Green); 3. Mr. V. Suppiah (Yellow). Ward No. IV: 1. Mr. P. Casipillai (Red); 2. Mr. V. M. Saravanamuttu (Green). Ward No. IX: 1. Mr. S. M. M. Aboobucker (Yellow); 2. Mr. S. M. Abdulader (Red). Ward No. X: 1. Mr. Sam A. Sapapathy (Red); 2. Mr. A. Kanagasabai (Green). Ward No. XI: 1. Mr. C. T. Navaratnam (Yellow); 2. Mr. S. R. Thalayasingham (Green); 3. Mr. C. C. Somasegaram (Red). Ward No. XII: 1. Mr. P. Mortimer (Green); 2. Mr. E. T. Hirschcock (Red).

Y. M. C. A. Move

The Jaffna Y. M. C. A. Board of Directors with some friends decided to endeavour to encourage the candidates to avoid the use of liquor in the election campaigns. To achieve this an appeal was made to all the candidates to attend a meeting in order to sign a declaration that they would not use liquor to influence public opinion during the election campaigns.

As a result of this appeal the following ten candidates signed the above pledge.

Fort Ward: Messrs. J. D. Veerasingham, S. P. Nadarajah and Ariya Pathirana; Columbuturai Ward: Messrs. P. Casipillai and V. M. Saravanamuttu; Muslim Ward: Mr. S. M. M. Aboobucker; Bazaar Ward: Mr. Sam A. Sapapathy; Station Ward: Messrs. C. T. Navaratnam and S. R. Thalayasingham; Chundi kuli Ward: Mr. P. Mortimer.

At the public meeting on Saturday evening under the Chairman ship of Mr. A. V. Kulasingham Rev. J. S. Mather, and Messrs. V. Sittampalam and V. Muthukumar M. A. outlined quite clearly the need for recognition of the responsibility of the vote.

MINORITIES AND THE REFORMS.

Mr. R. E. Jayatilleke For Weightage.

BANDARAWELA MEMBER'S PLEA FOR "GESTURE".

Puttur, Saturday.

"I am not a communal thinker", said Mr. R. E. Jayatilleke, member for Ruandwela in the State Council at a public meeting held this morning under the auspices of the Valikamam East Teachers Association, at the Sri Somaskanda English School, Puttur, Mr. J. S. Chelliah presiding. "Most of our leaders in the country have risen through communalism and by trotting out the communal issue. I am for a United Ceylon. No Reforms are worth having in this country unless they are acceptable to the minorities. The numerically superior community should have no fear that the minorities may oust them" said the speaker.

In the present scheme of Reforms, continued the speaker, there was talk of minority interests being overlooked. He would be happier if the State Council had the opportunity of discussing the scheme, before it was submitted to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Indians in Ceylon

Indians in this country sought the right to exercise the franchise after five years' residence. Another section of Indians wanted the vote and equality of rights on a par with the Ceylonese. Were they in a position to absorb the two million Indians in this country as Ceylonese nationals? The problem of landlessness in this country was so great. About 4½ million Ceylonese did not own land. The right to vote might, however, be conceded to Indians. More rights could be given if they renounced all ties with India and became Ceylonised.

Mr. Jayatilleke was of the opinion that the reformed council should have 100 members with constituencies so delimited as to give the minority communities reasonable weightage.

"A gesture to the minorities should come from the majority community," said Mr. J. G. Rajakulendran, member for Bandarawela, who also addressed the meeting. At present the leaders of the majority community unfortunately gave the minorities cause for fear and unres. They were anxious to join the major community in the fight for Reforms. During his election campaign people from Colombo came and urged the Sinhalese voters not to vote for him because he was a Tamil.



Hindu Organ.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1943.

MORE MUDDLING.

IT IS A PITY THAT THE ADJOURNMENT motion presented by Mr. T. B. Jayah with reference to the Ministers' attitude towards the scheme of reforms had to be ruled out by the Speaker. The motion was as follows: "That in view of the statement of the Leader of the House that the scheme of constitutional reforms may be forwarded to the Secretary of State for the Colonies by the Ministers before the House resumes in the New Year, I ask leave to move the adjournment of the House to draw the attention of the House to (1) the dissatisfaction among the minorities at being excluded from the consideration of the all important question of the reform of the constitution, and (2) the desirability of presenting a united front on constitutional issues and the undesirability of any piecemeal amendment of the constitution". The importance and urgency of the motion, particularly in view of Mr. Senanayake's statement that the scheme is still in course of preparation, cannot be denied. The object of the motion was to persuade the Ministers to refrain from endangering the unity of the people on vital political issues. The reluctance of the Leader of the House to take the minorities into his confidence in preparing the scheme of reforms will destroy not only all chances of maintaining the little unity that exists but also all hope of the majority community itself arriving at an enduring settlement regarding the political future of the island. We would draw the attention of Mr. D. S. Senanayake to the invidious position in which he is placing one of his colleagues—the Minister for Home Affairs. We welcomed the inclusion of Mr. A. Mahadeva in the Ministry as an earnest of future co-operation between the majority community and the minorities. Mr. Senanayake would be making the greatest mistake of his career if he thought that the presence of Mr. Mahadeva in the Ministry would by itself suffice to secure the adherence of the Tamils to any scheme of reforms prepared by him without consultation with the various communities. Let there be no misunderstanding. We believe that the minorities themselves are agreed on the need for self-government on the basis of a better scheme of representation for all sections of the people. The representation of the minorities under

the Donoughmore Constitution is totally inadequate. The question is really not one of "fifty-fifty" on the one hand and territorial representation by rule of thumb on the other. The real grievance of the minorities is that the representation conceded to them lacks the weightage which, without encroaching on the rights of the majority community, would make the support of the minority representatives attractive to any majority party aspiring to power. This weightage can be conceded by the leaders of the majority community without any injury to their own interests, unless their one ambition is to deny the minorities all share of political power. It is for this reason that the minorities, as rightly pointed out by Mr. Jayah, are opposed to any piecemeal amendment of the Constitution. It would appear from the statements made by Mr. D. S. Senanayake from time to time that the idea of the Board of Ministers is to secure the approval of the Secretary of State for the Colonies for a scheme prepared by them aiming at the creation of a system of responsible self-government, and to leave the question of representation to be considered by a Parliamentary Commission along with other matters. We feel that this is an attempt to place the minorities in a position of positive disadvantage, and the Leader of the House would have done well not to have relied on the Declaration by the Secretary of State as authority for the proposition that the scheme should be submitted to the Secretary of State first before the State Council is consulted. We find that the Speaker too has adopted Mr. Senanayake's interpretation. In an interesting letter to the press, Mr. G. A. Wille points out that the Ministers' original view of the matter was quite different and he quotes the following passage from Hansard of August 12:

"Mr. Wille: I heard it suggested that the Ministers were going to put forward their scheme without consulting us. (Ministers: No.) "The Hon'ble Mr. D. S. Senanayake: I could not understand what the hon'ble member meant when he said that the Ministers intended putting forward a scheme without consulting the members of the House".

We are glad to note that Mr. R. E. Jayatilleke, Member for Ruanwella, who was recently in Jaffna, supported the demand that the State Council should be consulted before a scheme is submitted to the Secretary of State and the claim of the minorities for increased representation. We trust that leaders of the majority community will follow Mr. Jayatilleke's example and see that the movement for self-government does not degenerate into a series of quibbles directed against the future of the minorities.

Present Political Position.

Will Reforms Manoeuvre Succeed?

By JOS. I. GNANAMUTTU,
Member, State Council.

"Little things are great to little man". Our little Island's politics loom large to us little islanders. The greatest of world wars is on. We, small people, were content to bide for a time yet the extravagances of the Donoughmore order. But our great fellow islanders have cried a move-on, war or no war. Therefore is a crisis being forced upon us. We have to accept the challenge. They agitated and almost had their way five years ago. Counting again on, influential support and secret manoeuvres, they hope this time too to succeed.

Home Rule for Ceylon

They want home rule. So do we. They want no more imperialist interference with Ceylon's concerns. So do we. But "actually as a matter of fact"—as their leader would phrase—we go further. We think it derogatory for home rulers to be unable to settle home problems within the home. The acid test of our affairs must be our capacity, for this initial act of statesmanship—to enable sons of our beloved soil, in all amity, to order an amicable future. The progressives so-called seek foreign aid; the reactionaries so-called stand for self-respecting independence.

The Big Brother's Gesture

One should have expected the elder to have called up the younger, rather than hasten to the step-motherly masters abroad. Would it be unfair to put the case thus? "You British are good, but your ways are not ours. You have blundered often but we shan't. Only help us now to control our irrepressible long-winded critics and to establish a swaraj of our own. You may then depart in peace. There are not wanting learned minority elements eager to bow to me, but never to you." Any little rift in our ranks will be used thus to neutralize the just and strong position which is ours.

A Pathetic Plea

And yet the little brother pleads: "Ioku aiyah, give us a chance to speak before you arm with the big stick from Whitehall. We really wish to co-operate with you". The response: "very sweet of you mal-lie, but I must obey the big stick first". This, I should guess, on the great principle; he securely commands who has learnt well to obey. The power to command will be there, once it is secured by this newly developed obedience! In reality the giant thinks he has the strength; like a giant would he use it.

Are We Weakening?

The minority leaders are apparently learning wisdom; see they are relenting—so think some superficial observers. The 50:50 was just bluff. Come down to 40:60 suggests the political pettifogger. Let me say out at once: it is not by the haggling technique of the bazaar that we people of Ceylon shall make any progress towards an understanding. The balance of power indicated by that ratio is no more than the minimum carrying every sanction of

(Continued on page 3.)

Ancient Political Institutions.

COMMUNALISM DEFINED.

By R. C. P.

Our indigenous system of government denoted by the name communalism, as has been explained in a previous contribution, had its root in the family. Authoritarian control is the essence of the family system. There is reason to hold that the institution is a successor of the tribal or clan life. Between the planned social life of the 'familial' groups and the tribal life, there is reason to assume, and some sociologists have advanced the hypothesis, that our ancestors set up the individualistic conception of life and lived it. In the trial, it must have been found, as that life in Europe manifests itself today, to lead to unrest, discontent, unemployment, disputes, grabs, disordered economy, intercaste wars and other abominations, and abandoned. It was then that communal life emerged in the process of evolution.

Dravidian Contribution

The division of society into sections on the basis of vocation must be taken as a contribution of Dravidian genius to the Aryans who immigrated into India. We do not find such or similar organisation among Aryans who went westward neither in Greece nor in Rome. The communal way of life seems to afford longevity of life to votary nations; for Rome and Greece have perished, while we and the Aryans of India have lived and do so still with our heritage of culture and traditions preserved.

European System

The European system of government is founded on the analytical jurisprudence i.e. life is individualistic. Its political structure is the separation of the individual and the State, as two radically absolute and even opposed elements. Its emphasis lies on individual rights and the power of the State. This way of life is one which we had long by-passed on the ground of unsuitability.

Our indigenous system of government rested on the co-ordination of duties and responsibilities. This was effected by the incorporation of the group-will into the life of the individual oriented in diverse intermediate groups between the individual and the State. A myriad of free voluntary quasi-independent organs of social government concentrated on the individual to impart group-ideas in the real genuine democratic way and in the result, the co-ordination became well-balanced and stable giving rise to a communal ethos which has been pervasive.

Field of Democracy

Early in our civilisation, it came to be recognised that principles of true democracy were difficult of application on large-scale areas of population. On the group life, guarantee for equal opportunities, equal chance of justice, liberty and self-determination was found. Any genuine humanitarianism must be the result of a gradual broadening of those

(Continued on Page 3)

20 MILLIONS ONLY

Cost of Free Education

State Schools

SOCIALIST COUNCILLOR ON NEW SCHEME

Puttur, Saturday.

"The introduction of free education at the last moment into the Special Committee's Report some say may sabotage the whole Report" declared Mr. R. E. Jayatilke M. S. C. at a public meeting held today at the Sri Somaskanda English School, Puttur, under the auspices of the Valikamam East Teachers' Association. The meeting was organised to discuss the Report which was published recently.

"Vested interests always oppose a free education scheme," continued the speaker. "No country except Russia has entire free education. If twenty million rupees can be found by the Treasury free education up to the University is possible. Government has at no time been financially backward in watching imperial interests and finding salaries for the upper strata.

"The excess profits tax brings in one-third of the war expenditure in Australia. Ceylon considers it inopportune to increase the tax at the moment and here the Board of Ministers has not been wise.

Equality of Opportunity

"Rupees Ten Million has been earmarked for post-war reconstruction. Why shouldn't we increase the taxation of the people, now that hoarding is common, and give the country free education. All of us pay taxes directly or indirectly. Equality of opportunity in education should be afforded to one and all. The poor and the rich do not vary in intellectual capacities. As a Socialist I shall oppose any attempt to deny the poor child the right to be educated.

"My frank view is that State Schools are ideal and should be encouraged, denominational Schools running as parallel institutions. There will be survival of the fittest then. Children should receive instruction in their respective religions.

Salaries

"In spite of ours being a noble profession it is the most beggarly-paid service", stressed Mr. Jayatilke. "Even in the new scheme the salary scales do not compare favourably with other services. I prefer family allowances for all the services as war allowances are not comparatively fair. Headmasters and Principals will benefit in the new scheme of salaries more than assistant masters. Teachers' Associations and other organisations should create public opinion on the Report as there is no such thing as public opinion in this country," concluded Mr. Jayatilke.

Free in Stages

"A local Committee is better than a foreign Commission," said Mr. J. E. Rajakulendran M. S. C. (Bandarawela), "but to some of us the whole scheme appears Utopian. I personally feel that free education is an ambitious scheme as one of the terms of reference for the Committee was the limitation of expenditure on education. Free education has its place in a socialised country; then medical services too should be free. I feel that education should be free in stages.

"In North and South Ceylon it is quite convenient to have primary education in the mother tongue. This scheme may not be workable in the primary classes of our towns where the mother tongue varies. If the

scheme is workable it is a move in the right direction.

Teachers' Salaries

"With regard to the question of salaries the Committee had to present a workable scheme. Free education is based on the assumption that those in the public services need high salaries no longer. It is not fair, however, that teachers only are to be experimented on and given basic salaries and family allowances. A radical salary scheme as this should affect all the services. Teachers' Association are forced to discuss salaries as teachers are poorly paid, but lead a different type of life from that of the government servant" concluded Mr. Rajakulendran.

A Discussion

Several general problems were raised when the report was discussed by the audience. Mr. S. Thanikasalam wanted teachers' posts to be reserved for them when they went for training. The speakers declared that this was provided for. Mr. T. Kathiravellu urged that the senior schoolboy should be enabled to proceed to the H. S. C. of the Secondary School; otherwise equality of opportunity was being denied. Mr. Jayatilke pointed out that the subjects of the senior and the secondary school were different; option was provided at the eighth standard.

Pensionable Allowances

Mr. T. Kathiravellu wanted children's allowances also to be made pensionable and Mr. Jayatilke assured the meeting that the State Council would consider this issue. To Mr. V. Capagasabai's question, Mr. Jayatilke replied that teachers in service could accept or reject the new scales as far as their salaries were concerned. They could not have the allowances without the new basic salaries.

Mr. J. S. Chellaiah said that teachers' salaries should not depend on the school each taught at. Rural teachers had graver responsibilities and should be better paid. Both the State Councillors promised to look into this question.

Certificated Teachers

Mr. Kathiravellu asked how certificated teachers and others with intermediate qualifications would be classified in the new dispensation. Would these groups be classified as approved specialists? Mr. Jayatilke promised to help these groups in getting proper classification.

Mr. C. Saravanapavan wished to know what would happen to 80% of the children going to practical schools after Std. 5. Would they get jobs?

Tone of a School

"Our experience of state schools has so far been that there is no tone in most government schools. In the denominational schools there is tone," said Mr. Rajakulendran. "Are we to sacrifice this tone?"

Mr. Jayatilke said that state schools should be the only medium of education in Ceylon. No child should unfortunately fall into one way of thinking. Tone led to caste, and this to "superior" feeling. The state school will eliminate this, let there be survival of the fittest rather than children being faced with an atmosphere of intrigue and political influence in their tender years.

Mr. Rajakulendran stressed that mismanaged schools should automatically become state schools. Mr. Chelliah stated that Jaffna's experience of state schools was none too good. Attainment and intelligence were not two entirely different things as experts would have us believe.

Mr. Jayatilke warned that the present differentiating system was so unsatisfactory that not five per cent of all school children passed the S. S. C. examination. The Commerce Department was to open 100 industrial schools and a cement factory in Jaffna next year.

Mr. Chellaiah thanked the Councillors for their attendance.

BATTICALOA BY-ELECTION.

MR. V. NALLIAH WINS STATE COUNCIL SEAT

Mr. V. Nalliah was declared elected to represent the Batticaloa-Trincomalee constituency in the State Council. The by-election took place on Saturday last and the counting of votes on Tuesday.

The by-election was the result of the expulsion from membership of the former representative Mr. E. R. Tambimuttu.

Mr. Nalliah, who is a graduate of the London University, was until recently Superintendent of the Rural Training School at Batticaloa.

The voting was as follows:—Mr. V. Nalliah, 4190; Mr. A. N. M. Mithar 3981; Mr. K. Kanagasabai 2438; Mr. C. W. Canagasabay 2282; Mr. A. Canagasasingam 1750 and Mudaliar S. Namasivayam, 927.

The last two lose their deposits, not having polled the minimum one eighth of the total votes recorded.

PRESENT POLITICAL POSITION.

(Continued from page 2.)

the pre-Sinhalese regime. It is no more the slogan of the Ponnambalam of today than that of the Ponnambalam brothers of a more liberal day.

A Case For Something Better

Much water has flown under the bridges since the Minorities' Conference of 1939, when the adhesion of the European interests to the cause of the minorities was taken for granted. Does our subsequent experience justify that trust? More often than not has that block proved pro-ministerial. How would it not act in the dry wood? A far-seeing patriot suggests that 55:45 should be our slogan in existing circumstances. And he argues thus:—

To Analyse

Take a hypothetical Council of 100, of which 87 seats would be territorial. Would it be wrong to assume for the major race ordinarily a voting strength of 55, made up of:

- 45 their own percentage.
- 8 out of 10 Europeans,
- 2 out of 3 Burghers?

Thus 55 would be just a symbolic figure to be struck down to 45 for practical purposes. Putting aside the British commercial and planting interests and the cultural and professional interests of the Burgher community, a possible strength of 13, what remains for the three racial entities—the Ceylon Tamils, the domiciled Indians and the Muslims—would be just 42.

Isn't that a defensible position? If yes, let no opposition frighten us nor opportunism turn us away from that objective.

RAMANATHAN DAY.

The Saiva Mangayar Sabai will celebrate the Gura Puja of the late Sir P. Ramanathan on 2nd December at Ramanathan College.

THE JAFFNA HOSPITAL.

VOTE FOR MATERNITY WARD EXTENSION.

The Executive Committee of Health has, it is understood, sanctioned a Supplementary Estimate of Rs. 68,000 for the construction of a Maternity Ward of 34 beds in the Jaffna Civil Hospital.

The Supplementary Estimate will in due course be submitted to the State Council for approval.

ANCIENT POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS

(Continued from Page 2)

very sympathies which make a man a good neighbour and patriot. The guardian for great achievement is gained by strength acquired by noble things done near at home. The group system is the channel for practical expression of those truths.

The Western Tendency

There is evidence pointing that the tendency of European civilisation is towards crystallization into industrial and political groups. "For years past French and German jurists of repute have been exploring the growing place of the group-person in the modern state." "In the opinion of eminent continental jurists the system of artificial territorial divisions and numerical majorities are a sham and delusion and they advocate the frank and legal recognition of Commerce, industry, property, professions in the constitution of representative system. The late Ramsay MacDonald wrote, "many thinkers as well as parliamentary labourites are emphasizing with genuine warmth on the substitution of occupational constituency in place of the antiquated local reference." The line of party cleavage in England has become almost obliterated. Emergent occasions have called for coalition governments which have proved their worth.

In The U. S. A.

In the democratic U. S. A. there is little party cleavage in the Senate or the House of Representatives. The so-called "party-bosses" remain outside the government. The President is a non-partisan and can be trusted to hold the balance of justice even in the interests of national progress and social justice.

The need that our pattern of society should be altered to suit the requirements of the modern conditions of life is obvious; but the way to do it is not to go back to the individualistic life which we had long by-passed because of its unsuitability and its tendency to feed the brutal nature in man.

A CORRECTION.

In my contribution under head "Ancient political institutions" appearing in your issue of the 15th inst., I notice an omission which, with your indulgence, I wish to be supplied. I should have said that Mandalams or dissai were presided over by governors appointed by the king from the royal family or the aristocracy. The Governors were assisted by cabinets of Ministers.

The Kingdom was constituted of a federation of Mandalams. The king was the head of all the political institutions in the kingdom. He was invested with

R. C. P.

ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY FELLOWSHIP

Mr. Mahesa Sarma
Elected

Mr. K. S. Mahesa Sarma, Notary Public, Karainagar, has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society (London). He is the second F. R. A. S. from Karainagar, the first being the late Mr. Allen Abraham, B. A., Professor of Mathematics, Jaffna College, Vaddukoddai, under whose guidance Mr. Sarma commenced his study of astronomy. He is well versed in Hindu Astronomy also.

POSSESSION OF DRUGS CHARGE.

MEDICAL PRACTITIONER ACQUITTED

The case in which the Jaffna Police charged Mr. E. P. Canagasabai, of Vannarpannai, with possessing a quantity of M & B 693 tablets without declaring stock came on for hearing before the Jaffna Magistrate on Saturday last.

The Magistrate acquitted the defendant and ordered the return of the seized drugs after the appealable time.

Mr. S. de La Harpe, Chief Inspector conducted the prosecution. Mr. A. Sambandan, instructed by Messrs. H. R. Ariacutty, R. R. Nalliah and A. Singaretnam defended.

The prosecuting Inspector stated that on 17th July, he seized a stock of M & B 693 tablets along with other controlled drugs from the defendant's dispensary and that he had subsequently heard from the D. M. & S. S. that the accused had not sent a return in respect of this drug.

Mr. C. Fernando of the D. M. & S. S. office who was called by the Police stated in cross-examination that the defendant had declared his stock on 2nd July and produced from his office file the copy which disclosed the various drugs stocked by the defendant then, including M & B tablets.

The defendant giving evidence stated that he had declared his stock of all controlled drugs a fortnight before the Police seized them. The Police failed to take steps for nearly four months. He had then written to the I. G. P. inviting a prosecution or the immediate return of the drugs. The Police then returned a major portion of the drugs seized, filing plaint in respect of others.

Two other cases against the same defendant in respect of the possession of Quinine and Angier's Emulsion were also called.

The Magistrate after trial acquitted him.

VEGETABLE GARDENS COMPETITION

To encourage food production in Manipay-the Manipay Village Committee resolved on the 20th, inst. to organise a vegetable garden competition. It is expected that the competition will be held early in february next.

THE PRESENT SYSTEM OF EDUCATION.

(Continued from page 1)

England and Ceylon

"Many of these problems are due to shortage of funds. We were appointed to investigate partly because of doubts whether the State was receiving value for its expenditure. That question we cannot answer, for there is no means of measuring the benefits obtained or obtainable from expenditure on education. The Annual Report of the English Board of Education for 1925 gives a survey of educational developments from 1910 to 1935. The expenditure from the Treasury and the local authorities on those branches of education within the purview of the Board increased in that period from £27,900,000 in 1909-10 to £85,100,000 in 1934-35, or from 15s. 6d. to 42s. per head of the population. The Board does not attempt to assess the consequences. It merely quotes from the Report on the Primary School issued by the Consultative Committee:—

"Few features in the history of the last thirty years are more striking or more inspiring than the improvement in the health, the manners, the level of intellectual attainment, the vitality and happiness of the rising generation".

"In Ceylon too there has been a rapid increase during the last two decades in the Government expenditure on education. The expenditure for the year 1920-21 was Rs. 4,138,762; that for the year 1930-31 was Rs. 12,479,918, that for the year 1940-41 was Rs. 19,687,010. The expenditure during the last financial year was Rs. 21,605,952 which works out at a little less than Rs. 4 per head of the population. So that in spite of the rapid increase the present expenditure on a per capita basis is very low. This of course is not comparable with that for England. A highly industrialized country with a high standard of living can afford to pay far more for education than a country such as Ceylon. Yet the productivity of a country depends in large measure on the educational level of its people. Nor can it be said that the difference between Rs. 30 and Rs. 4 is the difference between an English level and a Ceylon level. Although a good deal of improvement can be effected without an appreciable increase in the present cost we must frankly confess that full developments are not possible without the provision of adequate funds."

DENTAL SURGERY, JAFFNA

Mr. S. Chas. Pathirana, Licensed Dentist and Optician will be at the Dental Surgery, 43, Main Street, Jaffna, from the 3rd to the 15th of every month.

KURUNEGALA BRANCH

From the 20th to the 30th he will be at his branch Dental Surgery, opposite Courts, Kurunegala.

His Jaffna Patients are advised to make prior appointments, if possible, by writing to his Kurunegala address.

(Mis. 98, 5-8—31-12-43.)

GOVT. VACANCIES.

Salt Department

Post of Head Mechanic and Crane Driver at ELEPHANT PASS SALTERN. Written applications will be received by the Salt Commissioner till 30th November 1943, for the above posts. For further particulars see Government Gazette of 19-11-43. G. 31.

VALIKAMAM EAST TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

A memorandum on chapters 20 and 21 of the Report of the Special Committee on Education will be prepared at the meeting of the committee of the Valikamam East Teachers' Association to be held this evening at the Sri Somaskanda English School, Puttur.

WANTED

An assistant for a cloth store at Vannarpannai. Business experience a recommendation, but not essential. Retired teachers and other pensioners may also apply. Business hours 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Apply in own handwriting stating age, Educational qualifications (English and Tamil), salary expected &c., and enclosing copies of recent testimonials to

P.
C/o V. T. S. SIVAGURUNATHAN
Jaffna.
(Mis. 165, 25 & 29-11-43)

ROYAL ARMY SERVICE CORPS

WANTED men for training as CLERKS, STORE-KEEPERS and DRIVERS in the R. A. S. C. Good pay and prospects and OPPORTUNITIES EXIST FOR PROMOTION TO COMMISSIONED RANK IN THE R. A. S. C. Candidates should be between 19 and 40 years of age, physically fit and willing to serve overseas. Those to be trained as Clerks and Storekeepers should be educated up to the 6th Standard in English while those wishing to become Drivers are only required to speak, read and write English.

Proof of age may be required by the Recruiting Officer. Family allowances will be issued only after marriage and birth certificates of children are produced.

RATES OF PAY AND ALLOWANCES

Daily rate of pay on enlistment is Rs. 2.00 per day.

Accommodation, food and uniform will be provided and in addition the following allowances will be paid.

	Rs. cts.
Wife only 36.90 per month of 31 days
Wife & 1 child 50.89
Wife & 2 children 63.45
Wife & 3 children 74.56
Wife & 4 children 85.56

Maternity Benefit will be paid in all cases of the birth of children to the wives of R. A. S. C. personnel who are enlisted for General Service.

Applicants should apply personally at the Central Recruiting Office, 399, Galle Road, Colpetty, between 8.30 and 10.30 a.m. prepared for immediate enlistment on any week day.

CHIEF RECRUITING OFFICER, CEYLON

(Mis. 92, 29-7-43—)

THE JAFFNA MUTUAL BENEFIT FUND LTD.

(Established 1918)

BANKERS.

Authorised Capital Rs. 800,000.00
Amount of Calls made Rs. 134,367.00

SHARES: 8000 shares of Rs. 100/- each. 75 monthly instalments of Re. 1/- per share will earn Rs. 100/- for each at the end of the period. Shares issued all times.

CURRENT ACCOUNTS opened and interest allowed at 1% per annum on the average monthly balance when it does not fall below Rs. 500/-.

FIXED DEPOSITS received for periods of 3, 6, 9 and 12 months and interest allowed at 1, 2, 4 and 6 % respectively.

DRAFTS issued on the National and Imperial Banks to Colombo and the Principal cities of India. Remittances to and from F. M. S. by special arrangements.

INDIAN MONEY bought and sold

LOANS on the security of Jewels a speciality. Interest charged at 9% per annum (Part payments accepted.)

FOR FURTHER PARTICULARS APPLY TO:

S. KANAGASABAI,
(Y. 164. A. 21-11-41—20-11-43.) (T's) Shroff.